



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

June 25, 2004

James W. Warr, Director
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

Dear Mr. Warr:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the revisions to Chapter 335-6-10-.09 (Specific Water Quality Criteria) of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Administrative Code, adopted by the Alabama Environmental Management Commission (EMC) on April 20, 2004, regarding new enterococci criteria for coastal waters. The revisions were submitted to the EPA for review by letter dated May 20, 2004, and were certified by the State Attorney General as being duly adopted pursuant to State law on May 27, 2004. Other water quality standards revisions included in the submission (i.e., chlorophyll *a* criteria for 11 lakes and the addition of a Public Water Supply use to two segments in the Whitesides Mill Lake basin) will be addressed under separate cover.

EPA has determined that the adoption of the enterococci criteria for the State's coastal waters should be as protective of human health as those bacterial indicators recommended in EPA's *Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria-1986*. The criteria adopted by the State (Table 1) are as follows:

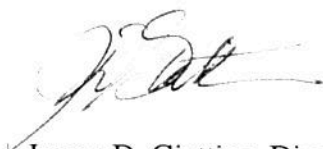
Table 1. Alabama's designated uses and related enterococci criteria.

Designated Use	Enterococci Criteria (for coastal waters)	
	Geometric Mean (colonies/ 100ml)	Single Sample Maximum Allowable Density (colonies/100ml)
Outstanding Alabama Water	35	104
Swimming and Other Whole Body Water- Contact Sports (Swimming)	35	104
Shellfish Harvesting	35	104
Public Water Supply (June - September)	35	158
Fish and Wildlife (June - September)	35	158
Public Water Supply (October- May)		275
Fish and Wildlife (October - May)		275
Limited Warmwater Fishery		275
Agricultural and Industrial		500

EPA approves the revisions to the bacteriological criteria of the State's water quality standards for Clean Water Act (CWA) purposes pursuant to the Agency's authority under CWA section 303(c) and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR Part 131.

EPA commends the efforts of Alabama in their continued commitment to water quality improvement through adoption of enterococci criteria for coastal recreation waters and all other coastal waters of the State. If you have questions regarding EPA's approval, please contact me at (404) 562-9470 or have a member of your staff contact Lauren Qualman at (404) 562-9272.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Giattina", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James D. Giattina, Director
Water Management Division